

Studies on tiger beetles. XCVIII. A new *Cylindera* from Chubut, Argentina (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae)

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Studies on tiger beetles. XCVIII. A new *Cylindera* from Chubut, Argentina (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae). - A new tiger beetle species, *Cylindera* (*Plectographa*) *chubuti* sp. n., closely related to *C. (P.) gormazi* (Reed, 1871), is described and figured, based on four specimens collected at El Maidén, Chubut, Argentina.

Key-words: Tiger beetles - Cicindelidae - *Cylindera* - new species - Argentina.

INTRODUCTION

The tiger beetle fauna of Argentina is probably still uncompletely known. A checklist had been presented long ago by BRUCH (1911), who listed 42 species in all, while additional information was later given in general catalogues of the family such as those by HORN (1905, 1908-15, 1926), BLACKWELDER (1944), and WIESNER (1992). Afterwards, a single new species was described by MANDL (1963), and VIDAL SARMIENTO (1965) mentioned the occurrence of a *Ctenostoma* species in the northern part of Argentina. Later, VIDAL SARMIENTO (1966) recognized the occurrence of 19 species belonging to the genus *Cicindela* s. l. in Argentina, while SUMLIN (1979) subsequently described four additional new species and raised up to 27 the *Cicindela* s. l. species known from the country. The same author (SUMLIN 1993) added later one more new species and, by adding also a previously overlooked species, he brought up to 29 the known number of the Argentine species of subtribe Cicindelina (sensu RIVALIER 1971). Finally, SUMLIN (1994) has recorded from Argentina one *Iresia* species as well. Present-day knowledge has been summarized by CASSOLA & PEARSON (2000), who recorded for Argentina a total of 65 species, 13 of which endemic of the country.

Several years ago, among other tiger beetle material of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle of Geneva (Switzerland), which was kindly submitted for identification by Dr. Ivan Löbl, I found four specimens of a remarkable *Cylindera* species of the subgenus *Plectographa* Rivalier, 1954, which appeared to be new to science. This species (from Chubut, northern Patagonia) was obviously a near relative of *C. (P.) gormazi* (Reed, 1871), but it showed unusual elytral markings which made it to be easily distinguishable from any other known related species. However, so far I have refrained

myself from describing the new species because a form of *C. (P.) gormazi* (Reed, 1871) from Chile, having enlarged partially confluent elytral markings, had been described by VARAS ARANGUA (1921) as "*Izquierdoi* n. var.", and it was not clear from his description whether my specimens could well be the same form. Moreover, two additional names (*Cicindela vidali* Philippi & Juliet, 1871, and *Cicindela gormazi* var. *dolorosa* W. Horn, 1896, both described from Chile) are available in the entomological literature which appear to belong to *C. (P.) gormazi* (VARAS ARANGUA 1921, HORN 1926, WIESNER 1992). Therefore, to not take the risk of creating a useless junior synonym, I felt it better to wait for additional material and information.

Luckily enough, thanks to the courtesy of Dr. Lothar Zerche of the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut (DEI) of Eberswalde, Germany, I was recently able to borrow two interesting female specimens (labelled respectively "Santiago/ de Chile/ Dr. Puelma" and "Chile/ ex cab/ Brown") which appear to be *izquierdoi*. As to *vidali*, it is just a junior synonym of *gormazi*, as PHILIPPI himself did recognize (PHILIPPI 1887, VARAS ARANGUA 1921), while the original description of *dolorosa* alone makes it clear that this name applies to a *gormazi* population having unusually narrow elytral markings (HORN 1896, VARAS ARANGUA 1921). Thus, my last doubts about the status of the Chubut species can be finally set aside, and therefore I give below its description.

***Cylindera (Plectographa) chubuti* sp. n.**

Fig. 1a-b

Material examined: Male holotype and three male paratypes from ARGENTINA (Chubut), El Maitén, 8 February 1966. A. Kovacs leg.; holotype and one paratype in the collection of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle (Geneva, Switzerland), two paratypes in author's collection. The type-locality lies in northern Chubut, along the eastern base of the Andes Mountains, just near the border with Rio Negro.

Diagnosis. A small black *Cylindera* species of the subgenus *Plectographa*, closely allied to *C. (P.) gormazi* (Reed, 1871) (Fig. 1c-d), however easily distinguished from it by the different elytral markings. Female unknown.

Description. Head dull black with some slight metallic bluish-green to violet reflections on vertex and eyes; front, clypeus and cheeks rather strongly pilose, with many sparse, white, semi-erect hairs; some sparse, fine, erect long hairs on vertex too. Eyes dark yellowish, relatively small. Labrum testaceous (narrowly darkened on margins), short, transverse, feebly unidentate in the middle, with 10-11 white short hairs or setigerous punctures near forward edge. Mandibles relatively short, externally testaceous from base to middle, shining black with greenish reflections internally and in apical half. Maxillary palpi metallic dark to green, the basal joint with long white hairs especially on the outer side; labial palpi testaceous with the last joint metallic green. Antennae relatively short and thick, reaching approximately the first third of the elytral length in male (expectedly shorter in female); articles 1-4 metallic dark green to violet, nearly glabrous, a single seta or setigerous puncture on tip of scape; joints 5-11 equally long, dull brownish-black, finely and evenly pubescent.

Thorax: pronotum obviously wider than long, sub-rectangular shaped, dull black with metallic bluish-green reflections in transversal grooves, sparsely pubescent

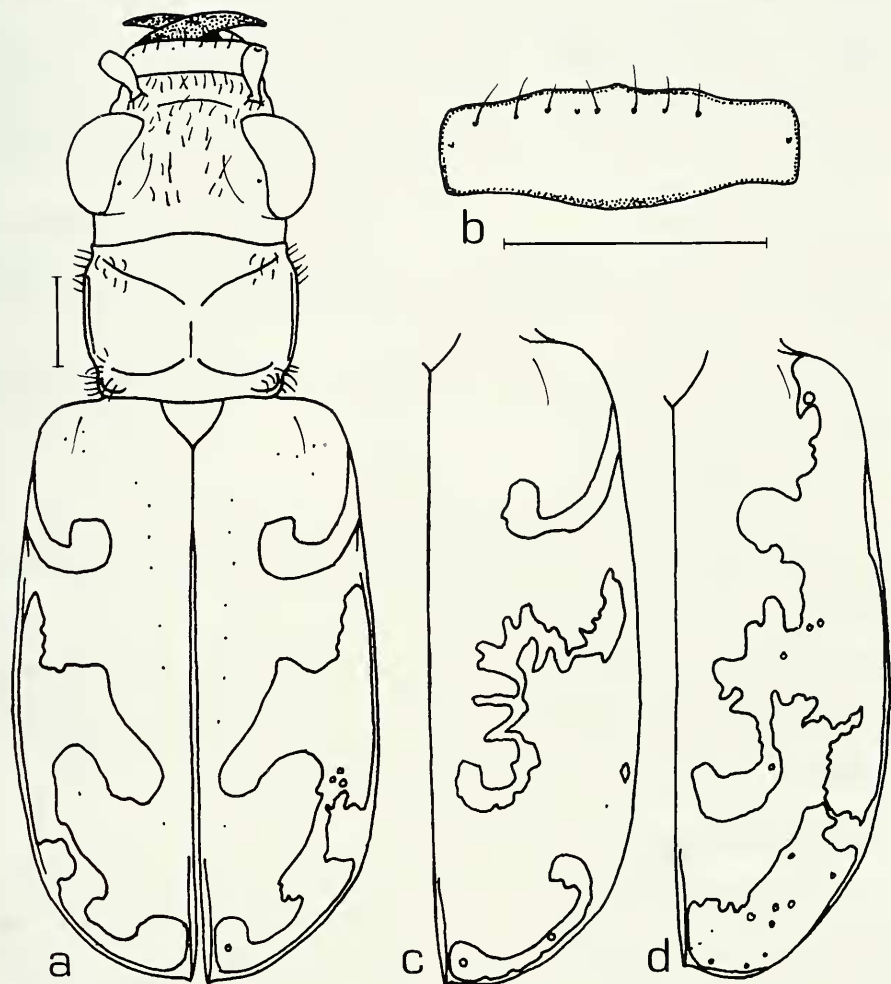


FIG. 1

Cylindera (Plectographa) chubuti sp. n., male paratype: a, habitus; b, labrum. *C. (P.) gormazi* (Reed, 1871), male specimen from "Llanquihue, Chile": c, right elytron. *C. (P.) gormazi*, female specimen from "Santiago de Chile" (m. *izquierdoi* Varas Arangua, 1871): d, right elytron. Scale lines: 1 mm.

at sides, a few hairs also sparsely on disc (expectedly often rubbed-off in old specimens). Episterna metallic greenish-black with some cupric reflections at base near the coxae, sparsely covered with long erect white hairs.

Elytra relatively large, together much wider than head with eyes, slightly rounded at sides, dull brownish-black with some greenish reflections on shoulders; a few poorly apparent green punctures near the shoulders and in a irregular longitudinal row parallel to, but some distance from, the suture; lateral margins and base of elytra

shining metallic green to violet. Hind margins evenly rounded, non-microserrated, sutural angle right with a very small apical tooth. Elytral markings yellowish-white, conspicuous, constituted by a long complete humeral lunule, a large wide middle band (widely expanded along the lateral border and obliquely crossing the elytral disc until a short distance from the suture), and a short complete apical lunule, whose subapical dot is narrowly connected on disc with the hind margin of the middle band. Epipleura metallic greenish-bronze, more or less rufescent in apical half.

Underside metallic dark bronze with green to bluish metallic reflections, strongly covered with white long hairs on sternal pieces and coxae, as well as in the outer third of the abdominal sternites; trochanters dark blackish-brown. Legs metallic green with some cupric to violet reflections; a few rows of white spiniform hairs on femora and tibiae, tarsal claws rufescent apically.

Male aedeagus similar to that of *C. (P.) gormazi* (VIDAL SARMIENTO 1966), short, bulky, arc-shaped, with a short blunt protruding apex followed by a conspicuous lateral crest on both sides.

Female unknown.

Length: 9.3-9.5 mm (without labrum).

Etymology. This small new *Plectographa* species is named from the geographical region where it comes from, the province of Chubut in northern Argentinian Patagonia.

Remarks. *C. (P.) gormazi* and *C. (P.) chiliensis* (Audouin & Brullé, 1839) - both described from Chile (REED 1871, AUDOUIN & BRULLÉ 1839, PEÑA & BARRIA 1973) - have also been recorded from Chubut (BRUCH 1911, SUMLIN 1979), but unfortunately no precise locality data are available. However, the apparent overlapping of ranges seems to strengthen the concept of *C. (P.) chubuti* sp. n. as specifically distinct.

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